

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

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E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, US, RP

SUBJECT: FOREIGN SECRETARY ROMULO'S SPEECH ON EVOLUTION OF GOP
FOREIGN POLICY

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUMMARY: IN MAJOR FOREIGN ADDRESS JULY 16, FOREIGN
SECRETARY ROMULO ARGUED THAT CENTRAL TRADITION EXISTS IN PHILIP-
PINE FOREIGN POLICY. FULL UNDERSTANDING OF PRESENT POLICY OF
PRESIDENT MARCOS WOULD DISCLOSE THAT IT IS NEITHER NEW NOR
RADICAL BUT CULMINATION OF "UNREMITTING NATIONAL ENDEAVOR" TO
STRENGTHEN SOVEREIGNTY, SECURITY AND GOP FREEDOM OF ACTION.
ROMULO REITERATED GOP DESIRE RENEGOTIATE BASES QUESTION "ON
TERMS COMPATIBLE WITH OUR SOVEREIGNTY AND REALITIES IN POST-
VIETNAM ASIA," AND SAID "CONTINUED AMERICAN PRESENCE IN ASIA
IS DESIRABLE AND NEW FOUNDATIONS SHOULD BE BUILT TO SUSTAIN IT."
HE EMPHASIZED GOP DESIRES TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES
AND GOP INTENTION TO OPEN DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH SOVIET UNION
"SOON". ROMULO'S SPEECH IS ANOTHER EFFORT IN ONGOING CAMPAIGN

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TO ALLAY ANXIETY FELT BY VARIOUS SEGMENTS OF FILIPINO POPULACE
OVER GOP'S CURRENT FOREIGN POLICY. END SUMMARY.

1. FOREIGN SECRETARY ROMULO ADDRESSED ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS EVENING JULY 16. HE DEVOTED MOST OF SPEECH, ENTITLED "THE EVOLUTION OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY," TO ADVANCING THESIS THAT GOP FOREIGN POLICY HAD EVOLVED IN ONE CONTINUOUS LINE SINCE TURN OF CENTURY. UNIFYING THREAD IN THIS POLICY HAS BEEN DESIRE TO "ASSERT NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND TO SEEK SELF-RELIANCE IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SECURITY."

2. AFTER ACCOUNT OF GOP FOREIGN POLICY DEVELOPMENT SINCE THE BEGINNINGS OF INDEPENDENCE, ROMULO GAVE STANDARD ACCOUNT OF BREAK-DOWN OF THE POST-WAR BIPOLAR SYSTEM AND THE EMERGENCE OF POLY-CENTRISM. HE CLAIMED PRESIDENT MARCOS "RECOGNIZED THE EMERGING REALITIES FAR SOONER THAN THE PUBLIC SUSPECTED" AND DETAILED STEPS MARCOS TOOK TO ASSERT FILIPINO SOVEREIGNTY VIZ REDUCTION OF DURATION OF BASES LEASE, RETURN OF SANGLEY POINT, REVERSION OF AREAS OF CLARK AND CAMP JOHN HAY. ACCORDING TO ROMULO, "PRESIDENT MARCOS IS A VEHICLE OF NATIONAL ASPIRATIONS" AND REMAINS IN THE CENTRAL TRADITION OF PHILIPPINE FOREIGN POLICY.

3. ROMULO CONCLUDED ADDRESS BY STATING GOP NOW EXPRESSING NATIONAL ASPIRATIONS IN THREE WAYS:

(A) RENEGOTIATING BASES QUESTION ON TERMS COMPATIBLE WITH PHILIPPINE SOVEREIGNTY AND THE REALITIES IN POST-VIETNAM ASIA, ALTHOUGHT GOP BELIEVES THAT "CONTINUED AMERICAN PRESENCE IN ASIA IS DESIRABLE AND NEW FOUNDATIONS SHOULD BE BUILT TO SUSTAIN IT."

(B) CONTINUING TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES WITH WHOM GOP CAN COOPERATE IN MATTERS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WITHOUT REGARD TO IDEOLOGICAL BELIEFS. NORMALIZATION WITH PRC AND IMPROVEMENT IN GOP RELTIONS WITH THE NATIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST ARE IN LINE WITH THIS PROGRAM. GOP WILL, THEREFORE, OPEN DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH SOVIET UNION SOON.

(C) CONTINUING SEARCH FOR WAYS TO IMPROVE PHILIPPINE SECURITY, SINCE THIS IS GOP'S PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITY, NOT OTHER COUNTRIES'.

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COMMENT: FROM OUTSET TONE OF ROMULO'S SPEECH, WHICH IS MEANT TO BE EDUCATIONAL, IS RATHER DEFENSIVE. IT IS TRANSPARENT ATTEMPT TO CONVINCE THOSE PEOPLE TO WHOM GOP'S FOREIGN POLICY SEEMS "STARTINGLY NEW" THAT IT IS NOT NEW AT ALL AND MERELY LOGICAL END PRODUCT OF EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS. ADDRESS IS VERY MUCH IN SPIRIT OF THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH TO THE PHILIPPINE COUNCIL FOR WORLD FREEDOM IN CEBU JULY 13 AND APPEARS TO BE PART OF GOVERNMENT PROPOAGANDA CAMPAIGN TO ALLAY ANXIETY AMONG IMPORTANT SEGMENTS OF THE POPULACE WHO ARE

APPREHENSIVE ABOUT THE DIRECTION THE PRESIDENT SEEMS TO BE TAKING
THE NATION. TEXT OF SPEECH BEING POUCHED EA/PHL.
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